



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

NORTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of the First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council; Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Monday, September 28, 2009 at Washington Elementary School District in the Governing Board Room; 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale, Arizona 85304.

Vice Chair Sally Downing called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. A brief welcome by Vice Chair Downing and introduction of guests in attendance took place. Vice Chair Downing advised the members and public in attendance that Bill Adams, Chair would be joining the meeting at a later time.

Council Members in Attendance: Sally Downing, Vice Chair; Connie Robinson, Member; James Emch, Member; Karyn Parker, Member; Dr. Elaine Ellis, Member; Willette Watts, Faith Based Member; Mindy Zapata, Member. Quorum established.

Council Members Not in Attendance: Karyn Parker and Jenna Goad.

Public in Attendance: Tracy Sloat from Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Vice Chair Downing advised that she would like to change the order of the agenda to accommodate presenters. Call to the public will be put on hold and needs and assets will be bumped down.

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda included the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2009. The decision was to table the minutes until the next scheduled meeting.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: The Attendance Policy was adopted by the State Board at their September 1, 2009 regular meeting. The Attendance Policy needs to be adopted into the Governance Policy of the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council. Member Willette Watts moved to adopt the Attendance Policy into the Governance Policy, seconded by Dr. Ellis, Member, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

CALL TO THE PRESENTERS:

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP: Kristen Rogers, MSW of Nurse Family Partnership presented her program telephonically to the Council. Ms. Rogers advised that Nurse Family Partnership pairs low income mothers with a nurse for 64 intense visits over a 34 month period; weekly and biweekly during their first trimester of pregnancy. The focus of Nurse Family Partnership is to improve diet, behaviors, parenting curriculum, proper health development, and well baby checkups. The 6 core areas that are focused on include: Personal Health, maternal role, environment, education, job goals, and service utilization. The requirement for mothers to participate in the program: Low income, first time mothers,

usually on Medicaid, but not required, and high risk. The reason they use Nurses as the providers is because of the level of trust that seems to develop between the nurse and the mother. Ms. Rogers advised that every dollar spent yields a \$5.70 return. Ms. Rogers informed the Council that Nurse Family Partnership is just starting a program for the South Phoenix Region. The grantee in this region is a partnership between the Department of Public Health and Southwest Human Development.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE HEALTH CARE MENTAL HEALTH CARE/SPECIALTY PROVIDER FIELDS: Kelly Murphy was not available at the meeting to give her presentation. Although the Council has Professional Development as one of their strategies, the professional development is focused on the early child care providers versus the health care providers. Dr. Ellis advised the rest of the Council that it would be nice to educate people providing health care to young children about the importance of development. Development of children to many health care providers (which include many Pediatricians and Health Practitioners) seems to be a grey area in that it is out there and providers know something about it, but they may not know for sure how to assess/talk with families about this, and/or they may believe that someone else is tasked to do it. The concern would be when health care providers don't promote literacy, don't ask about family support, don't ask about where the kids are spending their day, and don't know the ins and outs of developmental screening or surveillance. Providing additional training to health care professionals about the importance of these activities along with how to easily accomplish them would be a potential focus of a strategy in this area. The State funded support for the PEDS Testing which is parent evaluation of developmental skills for their children, a structured way to have providers listen to the parents. The PEDS Testing goes through about seven questions that has been studied and takes eight minutes to do and two minutes to score. The PEDS test sorts out kids into different categories. It would be nice to have additional training for medical staff to be able to provide the services Dr. Ellis pointed out. Coordinator Tomlin will check with the State to see if there is something that the Council can buy into to help fund this area, or if the council would need to develop its own strategy should they choose to allocate additional funding to the professional development goal area.

INCLUSION OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN IN TYPICAL CLASSROOMS: Valerie James, Speech Language Pathologist from the Arizona Department of Education provided to the Council a brochure of her program. She explained that the program considers individual needs of identified children and she acknowledged that it takes a lot of support and modifications to ensure full and active participation with typically developing children. The benefits: Professionals grow by developing new skills and broadening their perspective on child development, Professionals have an opportunity to learn to communicate more effectively and work as a team. Benefits for Children: Children are encouraged to be resourceful, creative and cooperative, develop a more positive image of themselves, learn new skills by observing and imitating other children, and children without special needs can gain from relationships with other children who have special needs. Benefits to families: Support on child development, watch their children make friends with a diverse group of children, families have an opportunity to teach their children about individual differences and access to education. There are also benefits to the community.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Jeri Robertson from the R.S.D. Computerized Charter High School presented to the Council her program and requested that the Council consider an idea that would coordinate community services by setting up a partnership wherein the Charter School and a local certified child care center would work together in order to provide free child care to their students that includes a transportation program. Ms. Robertson advised the Council that the Charter School has been in existence for five years in conjunction

with another charter school that merged. The Charter School currently serves 198 students and five are homeless. 86% of the students are at or below the poverty level; and 20-25% of the students attending are pregnant or parenting young children already. The students that attend the Charter School are usually unable to make it through the regular school system due to their circumstances of pregnancy or watching their small children, and typically ride the city bus to and from the Charter School. The Council would take this idea under advisement and thanked Ms. Robertson for her presentation.

Tracy Sloat, a newly hired Child Care Health Consultant who will be working with child care centers in the North Phoenix Region, came to introduce herself and start building a relationship with the Council. Tracy informed the Council that her program is starting the marketing process.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

NEEDS AND ASSETS: Vice Chair Downing relayed to the Council that she attended the September 10, 2009 Chair and Vice Chair meeting where a collaborative effort was talked about between the Councils to hire a common vendor throughout Maricopa County. Coordinator Tomlin advised that there will be a meeting at the end of October to review a qualified vendor list. The Coordinators and volunteers from the different Councils will review the list of qualified vendors to assure that an entity is picked that can provide the service and will have the capacity to provide the service for all Regions within Maricopa County that want to work together. It was the consensus of the North Phoenix Council that they would like to work with the other regions in Maricopa County to select a common vendor to complete Needs & Assets Studies for each region.

In addition, Council members were asked to identify data points that they believed were not yet included in the basic template, and that were necessary to allow the Council to get a "better picture" of the North Phoenix Region. Some of the items the Council would possibly like to add in the study are:

- Focus Group for Parents on Family Support
- The possibility of purchasing additional hours to analyze and add into the final report the information that was obtained from John C. Lincoln Hospital or other local sources
- A focus group for Child Care Workers; what they want and what they need
- A focus group for Teen parents; where are they? How many are there? How can we help them?
- Number of Pediatricians in the area
- Updated information on the implementation of the FTF Website Resource area

Monetary Aspect of Needs and Assets: Coordinator Tomlin reminded the Council that in SFY 2010, \$90,000 was allocated for Needs and Assets work. Of this, \$15,000 of the money was available to go for additions to the basic report, and the remaining \$75,000 was to go to a report for the North Phoenix Region to find out what the resources are, what the assets for family support are which could include a myriad of things. There are now two options to consider for how to expend those funds in this current fiscal year:

- Move forward with the report by finding a vendor through a request for Proposal so that the report can be distributed, and leave the smaller portion in place to assist with the basic Needs and Assets report.
- Move all or part of the funding into another line item.

The Council would like an update on getting resources available for view on the First Things First website before making a decision on the Needs and Assets resource report.

There is the meeting on October 28, 2009 from 3-5 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Education building on Palm and Central that the Coordinators are requesting volunteers from the different Councils to attend. Member Connie Robinson and Vice Chair Sally Downing may serve as volunteers to this workgroup.

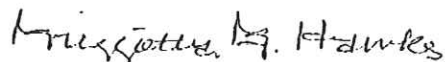
DIRECTIVE: Coordinator Tomlin is directed by the Council to find the summary that had an array of information the Council put together last year and re-send it to the Members for their review, and find out the status of the resource information that is to be posted to the internet. Brenda will also attend the meeting on the 28th to provide the additional data points listed above and may allocate up to the \$15,000 on the Needs and Assets line item for any additional points that the council may identify and/or are developed through the cross-regional meeting.

FUNDING PLAN: Regional Coordinator Tomlin did a summary of the funding plan which included a review of definitions for system building and coordination. Brenda went over the different options available to possibly put out new requests for proposals for new strategies, or add more money to the existing strategies. The funding plan allocations per strategy area will need to be finalized at the next meeting in order to be presented to the State Board for their approval. It was the consensus of the Council that as new RFGA's are developed, one of the Members read the Request for Grant Application prior to being posted. The time frame for the review for new strategies will be January through March 2011. The Evaluation and Study Plan was also discussed to see if the Council would like to buy into the survey that St. Luke's is doing. For an additional amount, a larger sample size from North Phoenix residents can be add to allow for a more precise picture of the health needs in the Region.

NEXT MEETING: October 13, 2009, Washington Elementary School District Governing Board Room; 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale, Arizona 85304.


ADJOURN: Dr. Elaine Ellis, Member moved to adjourn, second by Connie Robinson, Member, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted



Briggetta Hawks
Administrative Assistant

Approved



Brenda Tomlin
Regional Coordinator

Council Approval



Bill Adams, Chair
North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council